モーニング
KC1853

BILLY BAT 2

浦沢直樹
+ストーリー共同制作
長崎尚志

講談社

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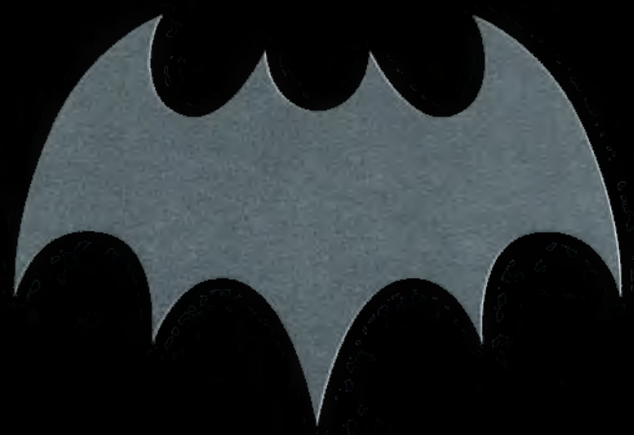

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Two thousand years ago, some place unknown.
A barefooted man walks with a burden on his shoulders.
Hit by rocks thrown by the delirious crowd,
The man is covered in blood.
And one boy's eyes are glued to the sight.

Naoki Urasawa + Takashi Nagasaki Presents

ビリーバット

BILLY BAT

2

浦沢直樹

＋ストーリー共同副作

長崎尚志

!!

カーン

sfx: kaaaan

カーン

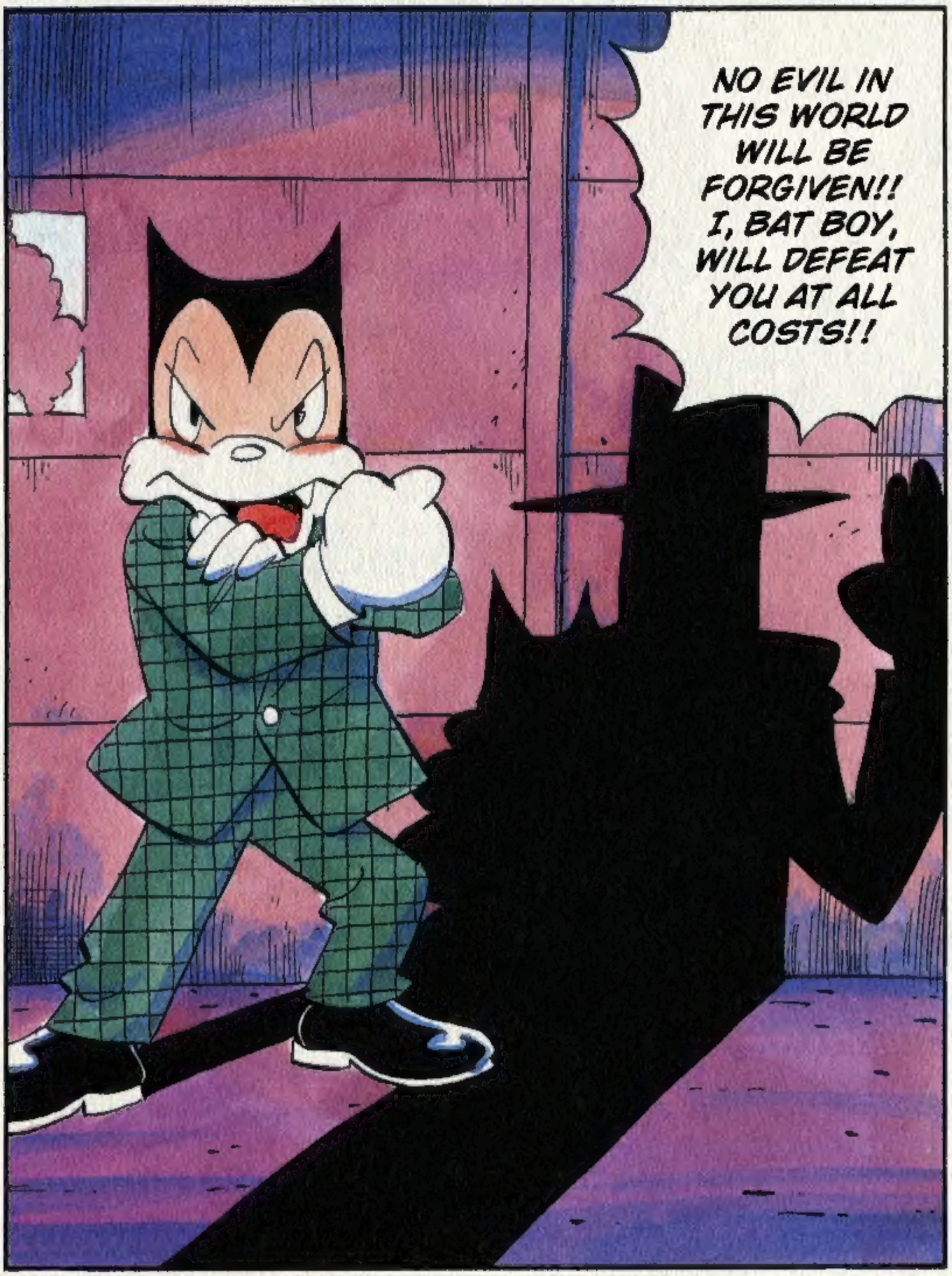
sfx: kaaaan

WELL, WELL, LOOK WHO'S FINALLY DECIDED TO REVEAL HIMSELF!!

Fu Fu ...

THE TRUE CRIMINAL IS YOU!!

YOU KNOCKED OUT THE VICTIM WITH THAT KARATE CHOP AND THEN HAD HIM RUN OVER BY A TRAIN!



Chapter 10 A Continuation of The End

YOU SCOUN-DREL!!

TOOHHHH!

HOW COW-ARDLY! GET DOWN HERE!!

FU FU FU...

MU MUH!

WHY, YOU ASK...?

I'LL LET YOU LIVE FOR TODAY.

WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

BECAUSE WE MUST FIGHT IN AN EVEN BIGGER CASE.

ARE YOU GOING TO TURN TAIL AND RUN, COWARD!?

AHH, WAIT!!

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU COME TO AMERICA. FAREWELL!!

THE KARATE CHOP MAN HAS ESCAPED THE HANDS OF BAT BOY! NOW, A NEW ADVENTURE BEGINS... GO, BAT BOY!!

THE END

WHAAT, IT'S NOT OVER YET...

おのれ!!

おしまい

AH...

MMMM...

DON'T READ ZOFUU-SENSEI'S MANGA WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!!

WELL...

AH...

HOW IS IT DANGEROUS...?

THIS IS DANGEROUS!!

IT WAS JUST SITTING OVER THERE, THOUGH...

IT'D JUST BE BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T READ IT ...

IT'S BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

I ALREADY READ IT ALL, THOUGH.

.....

WHERE'S THE NEXT PART?

THERE IS NONE.

BUT IT ISN'T OVER!

SENSEI SAID HE WAS DONE AFTER HE FINISHED DRAWING THIS...

THE KARATE CHOP MAN...

THAT GUY HASN'T BEEN CAUGHT YET.

"YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU COME TO AMERICA," HUH...?

DON'T WORRY, I'LL HIDE YOU.

H... HEY!

NO, I WON'T LET YOU GO!

SHAVED ICE IS PRETTY MUCH THE ONLY THING YOU CAN EAT ON DAYS LIKE THIS...

HEY, POPS, WHAT KIND IS YOUR FAVORITE?

TODAY'S GONNA BE ANOTHER HOT ONE ...

YOU KNOW I CAN'T JUST WRITE THAT YOU LIKE UJI KINTOKI SHAVED ICE ON THIS DOSSIER HERE.

YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME A THING ABOUT YOUR NAME, WHERE YOU LIVE, OR YOUR AGE...

AH, SO HE FINALLY SPEAKS ...

UJI KINTOKI STYLE.

THEN MAYBE WE CAN GO GET SOME NICE COLD SHAVED ICE TOGETHER.

C'MON, JUST OUT WITH IT ALREADY.

IT WAS A REALLY BAD MOVE, YOU KNOW... THAT YOKOSUKA MANSION IS BEING USED BY AN OFFICER FROM THE US RIGHT NOW.

WHY DID YOU DO IT?

DRAWING GRAFFITI ON THE SIDE OF THE WALL LIKE THAT ...

HUH?

IT ISN'T OVER...

JUST WHAT'S WITH THAT BAT, ANYWAY?

THE NEXT PART JUST CAME TO ME.

PRETTY NICE POSITION YOU HAVE THERE.

IT'S DIFFICULT FOR MEN WHO DON'T EVEN INTRODUCE THEMSELVES TO BE TRANS-FERRED TO OUR BRANCH, MR. SMITH.

BRINGING A GEISHA GIRL WITH YOU TO THE BEACH TO GO SWIMMING ...

CAPTAIN FINNEY.

WELL, IF I WAS TRANSFERRED, I'D PROBABLY END UP WITH A DIFFERENT NAME, NOW WOULDN'T I?

MAKES ME WANT TO REQUEST A TRANSFER TO GHQ MYSELF.

DEALS WITH A CORPSE WITH ITS TORSO, LEFT ARM, HEAD, AND BOTH LEGS RE-MOVED...

YEP. THE ONLY TOPIC I'VE BEEN HEARING ON THESE SWELTERING DAYS...

STILL INVESTI-GATING THE SHIMOYAMA CASE?

KU KU KU... IF THIS GIRL COULD SPEAK ENGLISH, SHE'D PROBABLY HAVE FAINTED BY NOW.

AND ALL THE BLOOD SUCKED RIGHT OUT OF IT.

...SO, WHAT IS IT? SUICIDE? HOMICIDE?

I DUNNO ...

THE ONLY THING I CAN SAY FOR SURE...

WHICH DO YOU THINK IT WAS?

THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE'S BEEN IN DISAGREE-MENT ABOUT LATELY.

IS THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE REALLY EXCITED TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO JAPAN NEXT.

LOOKS JUST LIKE ONE OF YOUR MEN, DOESN'T HE?

h-ha...

A MAN WHO WAS SIGHTED NEAR THE PLACE WHERE SHIMOYAMA'S BODY WAS RUN OVER A FEW DAYS PRIOR TO THE INCIDENT.

WHAT'S THAT PICTURE ...?

HE HAS A PRETTY BAD WORK ETHIC, TOO, AND HASN'T BEEN COMING IN MUCH LATELY.

I BELIEVE HIS NAME IS KEVIN YAMAGATA ...

HE JUST GOT HERE, SO I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM.

IF HE'S STILL ALIVE, THAT IS.

HE IS TO BE PUNISHED SEVERELY ...

YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE HE WENT EITHER, DO YOU?

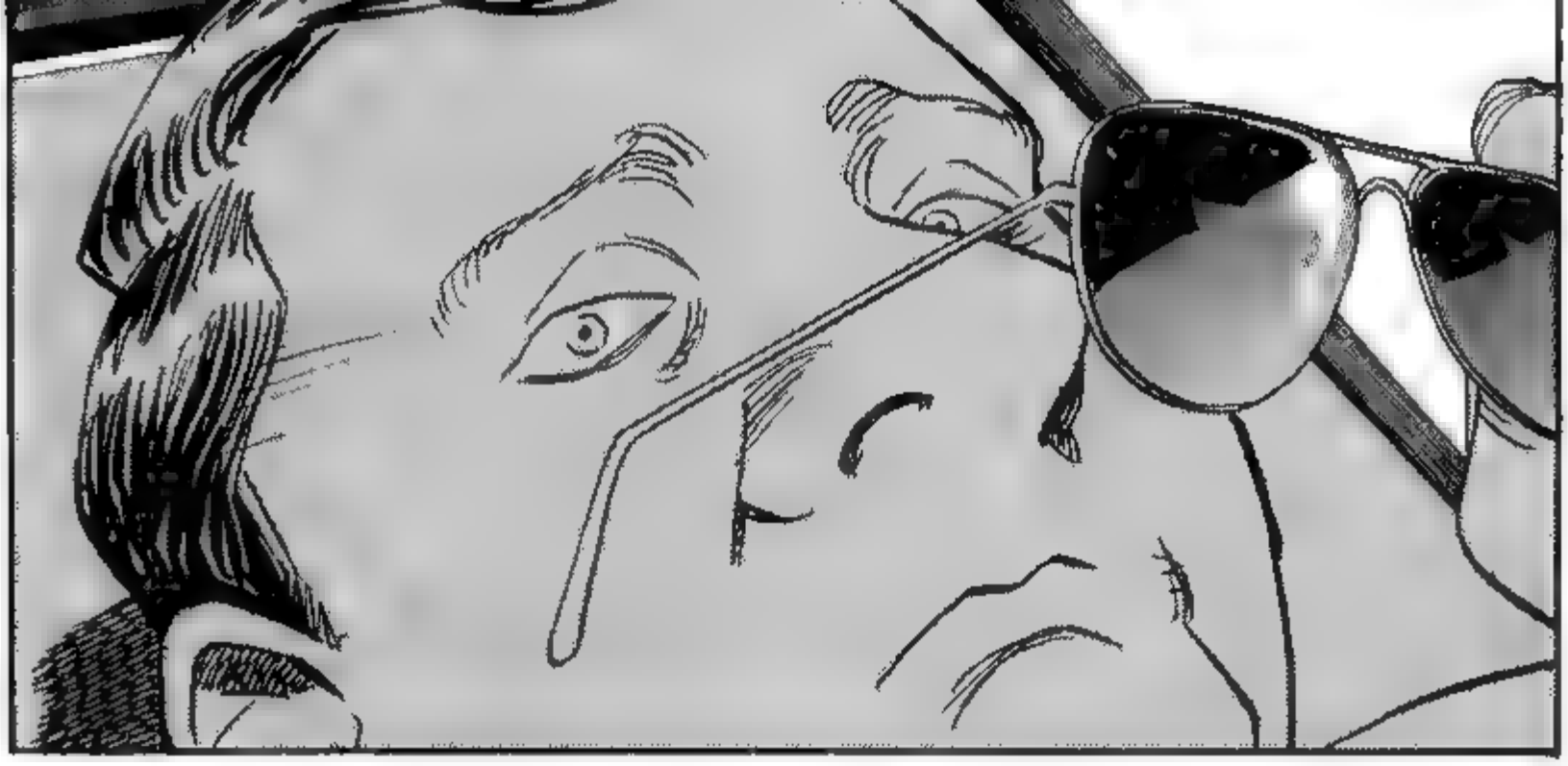
HOW ABOUT CHARLIE ISHI-ZUKA?

IS THE WHERE-ABOUTS OF THAT MISSING ANCIENT TEXT... RIGHT?

THE ONLY THING YOU'RE INTER-ESTED IN...

NOT INTERESTED IN THE LIVES AND DEATHS OF PEOPLE?

JUST WHAT DOES THAT TEXT CONTAIN, ANYWAY ...?



NEXT PART OF WHAT ...?
THE NEXT PART CAME TO YOU...?

取調室

I CAN'T TELL YOU.

SILENCE AGAIN, HUH?

I'M NOT REALLY ALLOWED TO GIVE YOU A PEN, THOUGH.

DRAW... FINE, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A SHOT, THEN?

I MUST DRAW IT...

IT WAS SO SHARP AND CLEAR, AND THEN ... AHHH, IT'S ALL GONE!!

THE IMAGE DISAP-PEARED !!

WH... WHAT?

AHHH, IT'S NO GOOD!!

I FINISHED DRAWING THE LAST PART ONLY A LITTLE BIT BEFORE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED, AFTER ALL!!

MY PEN SPEED IS JUST TOO SLOW!!

.....?

.....?

NO GOOD, NO GOOD, I'M NO GOOD!!

HE ...?

HE MIGHT BE THE ONLY HOPE FOR THIS.

THEM ...?

THE ONLY ONE ABLE TO STOP THEM...?

WHAT, ARE THERE SOME DEMONS OUT THERE OR SOMETHING?

THE ONES ATTEMPTING TO MANIPULATE HISTORY...

HUMANS INVENTED LIGHT...

I THINK IT WAS ...

KINJI-KUN...

KINJI ...?

OR SO THEY THOUGHT. IN TRUTH, THOUGH...

THEREFORE CONQUERING THEIR FEAR OVER THE DARK.

HUH?

THEY JUST ALLOWED THE DARK-NESS TO GROW EVEN THICKER ...

THAT ANCIENT TEXT...

IS DARK-NESS.

THAT'S WHY I'M SEARCHING FOR IT.

YOU COULD CALL IT A MISSING PIECE.

DARK-NESS ...?

THE DARKNESS OF HISTORY...

IT IS NECESSARY TO US.

HELP ME SEARCH FOR A MAN NAMED KINJI.

I HAVE A REQUEST FOR YOU!!

HE'S A SECOND-GENERATION JAPANESE MANGA ARTIST WORKING FOR THE OCCUPYING FORCES!!

UHH... JUST KNOWING HIS FIRST NAME ALONE WON'T HELP US MUCH.

RE-QUEST ...?

TELL HIM THAT HE MUST GO TO AMERICA!!

SECOND-GENERATION...? OCCUPYING FORCES...? MANGA ARTIST...?

AND THAT HE IS THE ONLY ONE LEFT WHO IS ABLE TO STOP THIS!!

OHH, US ARMY BOOTS!!

YOU CAN'T GO ON WALKING AROUND IN THOSE SANDALS FOREVER.

LOOK ...!

AH, THEY FIT PER-FECTLY.

HOW DID YOU GET THEM?

THEY BE-LONGED TO A CUS-TOMER ...

EH... BUT THEN WHAT WILL HE DO ABOUT HIS OWN SHOES?

KINDA REMINDS ME OF THAT BAT OF OURS...

STEAL, HUH...?

HE CAN JUST STEAL A NEW PAIR FROM SOMEONE ELSE.

STOP STREET

止レ

A AVE

AH... YEAH!

STOP MUMBLING ALREADY, I'M HUUUUNGRY!

AN AUTO-GRAPH.

AUTO-GRAPH?

WHAT IS THAT?

APPARENTLY, THAT OLD GUY'S A MANGAKA.

HEH! DON'T TELL ME YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVED HIM, SERGEANT OONUKI?

IT'LL FETCH A HIGH PRICE NOW, SO TAKE IT, HE SAID.

ALRIGHT, BUT I DON'T WANNA HEAR ANY COMPLAINTS WHEN IT NETS ME A FORTUNE!

AW, IF I TAKE IT HOME, IT'LL JUST END UP AS TOILET PAPER.

WANT IT?

Do you Speak English?

AHHHH, JA... JASUTO MOOMEN-TO!!

AHHHH... HAU... HAU, HAU DUU YUU DUU...

WHAT'S
AROU

SER-
GEANT
!!
SER-
GEANT
OOKUBO
!!

I AM
CAPTAIN
FINNEY
FROM THE
GHQ SPECIAL
INVESTI-
GATIONS
UNIT.

AND WHAT DOES THAT SPECIAL WHATEVER WANT WITH US?

I HEARD THE MAN WHO DREW GRAFFITI ON THE OFFICER'S MANSION IN YOKOSUKA WAS BEING HELD HERE.

OH, YOU CAN SPEAK JAPANESE?

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO HAND HIM OVER TO US.

SO WHAT ...?

IT'S JUST GRAFFITI. THERE'S NO REASON TO HAND HIM OVER TO THE AMERICANS.

IT'S GRAFFITI THAT WAS DONE ON AN AMERICAN OFFICER'S HOME.

IT'S NOT JUST ANY GRAFFITI.

?

HAHA ...

REGARDLESS OF WHERE IT'S WRITTEN, GRAFFITI IS GRAFFITI.

TO WHERE?

BESIDES, I'VE ALREADY LET HIM OUT.

Fu Sha

.....

MANGA-KA?

WHAT'S HIS NAME ...?

TO THIS WORLD... HE HAS NO PRESENT ADDRESS, SO WHO KNOWS WHERE HE WENT...

WHY ARE YOU SO INSISTENT ON GETTING INFORMATION ABOUT A MERE MANGAKA WHO DECIDED TO DRAW SOME GRAFFITI?

HE MAY BE A SPY.

ANYWAY, THE POINT IS...

FINE... I'LL TALK IT OVER WITH MY SUPERIORS.

HUH?

THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT MAN MAY BE A SPY, SO THE AMERICAN ARMY MUST INTERROGATE HIM.

DO YOU HATE THE AMERI-CANS?

NOW IS THE TIME TO BE GETTING ALONG, YOU KNOW.

Haa

Haa

Haa

Haa

WHERE DID YOU GO, OLD MAN!?

MAKE THE WRONG MOVE AND THE AMERICANS WILL WRING YOU OUT TO DRY!!

UM, EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING ...

DID AN OLD MAN STOP HERE EARLIER?

A GUY WITH BOTTLE-CAP GLASSES AND A TOWEL AROUND HIS NECK...
HUH?

AHH!
AND HE SHOULD HAVE ORDERED UJI KIN-TOKI!!

HEY KID, DID AN OLD MAN WEARING BOTTLECAP GLASSES COME THIS WAY...?

YUP.

...AND? WHICH WAY'D HE GO?

MITAKA ...?

NEXT IS MITAKA, MITAKA...

?

WHITE CHALK ...?

WAHH!!

THEN AFTER THAT IS MATSUKAWA, FUKUSHIMA ...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...?

MATSU-KAWA ...?

WAWA
WAHHH
!!

...300,000 UNION WORKERS FIRED FROM THE NATIONAL RAILROAD COMPANY DUE TO SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES...

D... DID THE OLD MAN DRAW ALL THIS JUST NOW?

YUP.

AND... SINCE EVERYONE GOT FIRED, JAPAN'S GONNA GET POOR AGAIN...

AND ...?

YUP. DID THE OLD MAN SAY THAT?

AND ANOTHER WAR WILL HAPPEN AGAIN OVERSEAS!!

THAT SOMEONE'S GONNA GET REALLY RICH!!

THE NEXT PART JUST CAME TO ME!!

I MUST BRAIN IT!!

DID THE OLD MAN SAY THAT?

YUP

THE JAPANESE-AMERICAN MANGAKA ENVELOPED BY THE DEEPEST HATE'S

PLEASE SEARCH FOR HIM

HIS NAME'S AOKI!!!

IT IS BY NO MEANS AN EASY TASK, AND THEREFORE OUR ORGANIZATION HAS DECIDED IT WILL BE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO TEST OUR ABILITIES!!

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

AND WE WILL COME OUT WITH VICTORY!!

WE WILL TAKE THE CHALLENGE!!

WE CHOOSE TO GO TO THE MOON!!

We choose to go to the moon!!

WE CHOOSE TO GO TO THE MOON!!

HAH !?

AWAKE ?

YEAH ...

AH...

YOU WERE REALLY TOSSING AND TURNING... ARE YOU OK?

Haa

Haa

Haa

ALL MY WOUNDS ARE HEALED, SO I'M GOING OUT TO WORK TONIGHT.

W... WORK ...?

I DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF PLAYING AROUND EVERY DAY LIKE WE'VE BEEN DOING LATELY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY, I WON'T FORGET YOU FOR A SECOND, KIN-CHAN!

BUT ...

YOU CAN STAY.

EH ...?

I HAVE TO GO, TOO... THE GIRLS WILL RETURN TO THIS ROOM IN THE MORNING, RIGHT?

JUST DRAW IT HERE.

NO, I CAN'T DO THAT...

JUST DRAW YOUR MANGA HERE.

EH ...?

YOU CAN STAY AS LOOOONG AS YOU WANT.

I'M SURE EVERYONE WILL LIKE YOU, KIN-CHAN.

SHIZUKO-SAN...

WHAT DO YOU NEED? PEN, INK, A RULER ...

I'LL GO BUY THE EQUIPMENT FOR YOU.

I'LL BE BACK, DARLING!

THANKS, SHIZU-CHAN...

JUST CALL ME SHIZU-CHAN.

"WE CHOOSE TO GO TO THE MOON," HUH...

BETTER WRITE THAT DOWN ...

sha sha sha

MANGA... IT'S SURE BEEN A WHILE...

IT'S COMPLETELY ABSURD, BUT IT MIGHT BE ENTERTAINING ...

A TRIP TO THE MOON, HUH...?

I WONDER IF THE READERS ARE WAITING FOR IT TO START UP AGAIN...

THE "BILLY BAT" SERIALIZATION ...

shah

shah
shah

YEAH, IT CAN WORK!! "BILLY'S IN-VESTIGATION OF THE MOON WORLD!!"

sha
shah

WANNA PLAY A LITTLE?

HEY THERE, BROTHER ...

COME ON! IT'S BECAUSE EVERYONE'S IN HARD TIMES THESE DAYS...

AWW,

HEY, LET'S PLAY A LITTLE, BROTH....

HEY, YOU.

Guh

OH MY, WHAT A HANDSOME GUY...

WANNA PLAY A LITTLE?

AHHH, HEY! THERE'S NO NEED TO HURRY!

THE MOON ...

LET'S WAIT UNTIL WE GET INTO THE ROOM!

IT'S BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT, SO...

INCIDENTALLY, THE MAN WHO IS ATTEMPTING TO GO THERE IS THE PRESIDENT.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY, NO ONE CAN BE LIKE PRINCESS KAGUYA.

YEAH RIGHT ...

SERIOUSLY? SORRY TO BREAK IT TO YOU, THOUGH, BUT I DON'T DO IT OUTSIDE.

A MAN ATTEMPTING TO GO THERE HAS APPEARED.

C'MON, LET'S GO BACK TO THE MAIN STREET!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU READ IT, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU READ THE MANGA.

READ WHAT ...?

!!

MMMMMM, IT'S ALREADY GETTING BRIGHT OUTSIDE...

I WAS JUST USING YOUR ROOM... I'LL GET OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE !!

AHH... SORRY !!

Haa

Haa

Haa

ARE YOU KIN-CHAN!?

GET OUT HERE RIGHT NOW!!

I'M SORRY ...!!

Y... YES...

HUH ...?

SHIZU-CHAN...

SHIZU-CHAN'S IN BIG TROUBLE!!

SHIZU-CHAN!!

Haa

Haa

Haa

SHIZU-CHAAAAAN!!

CHAPTER 12 — A MYRIAD OF SUSPECTS

chih chih chih

EXCUSE ME.

I CAN'T STAND BAD JAPANESE. SPEAK ENGLISH, WILL YOU?

ARE YOU SHIRASU-SAN?

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A SHIRASU WHO WANTS TO TALK TO YOU, YOU WON'T FIND ONE HERE.

ZAH

MR. JIROU SHIRASU, I PRESUME?

DID THEY TEACH YOU THAT AT OXFORD?

WHAT NATURAL-SOUNDING ENGLISH.

I'M JUST A FARMER.

LIKE HOW TO TILL THE SOIL, FOR IN-STANCE.

OXFORD IS A NICE SCHOOL, BUT THEY WON'T TEACH YOU ANYTHING VITAL.

EVEN KIDS CAN SPEAK ENGLISH.

IS THAT A HARD THING TO DO? PLOWING FIELDS...

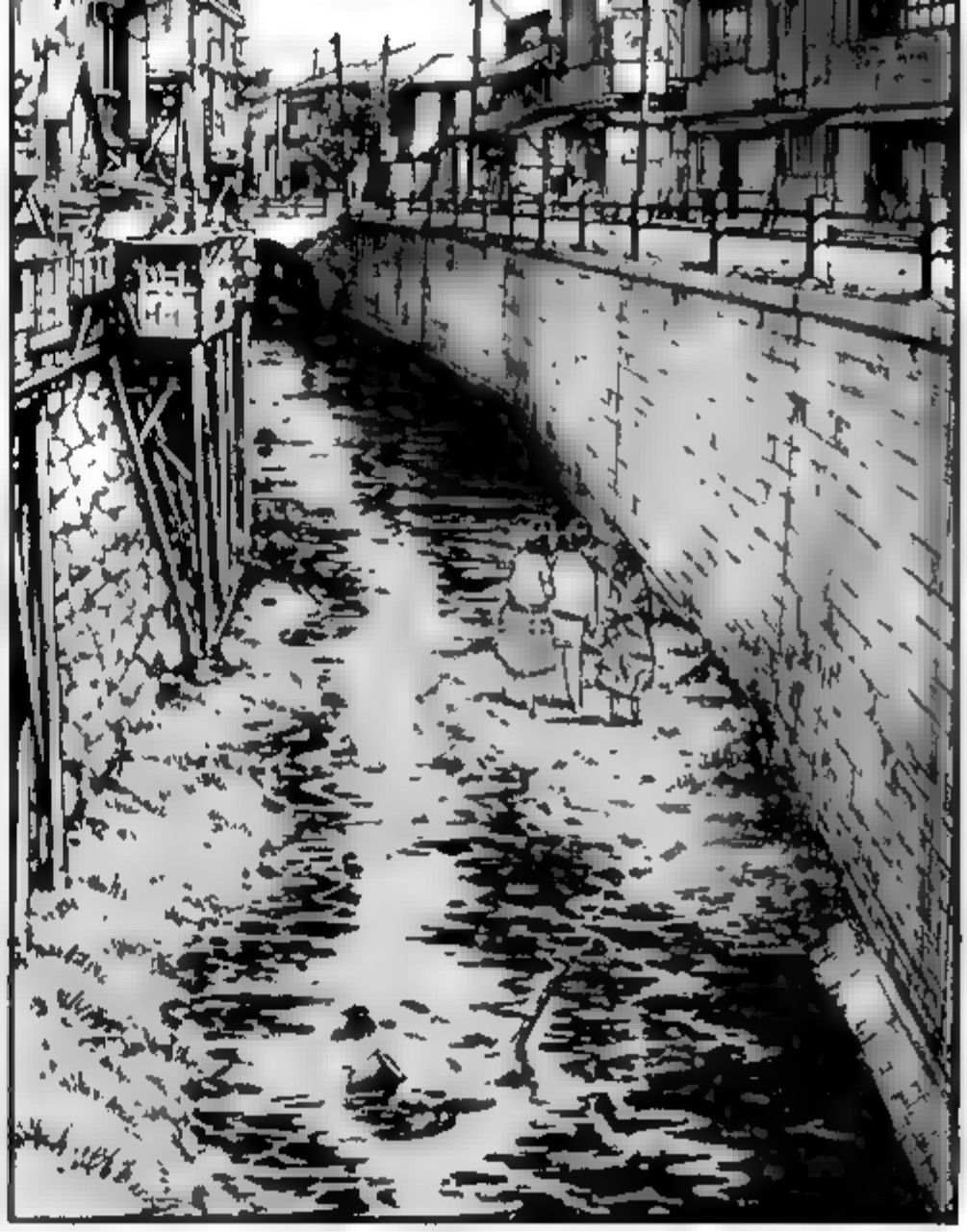
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'VE GOT A COUNTRY LIKE THIS THAT NEEDS TO BE RE-PLOWED FROM SQUARE ONE.

YEAH.

ZAH

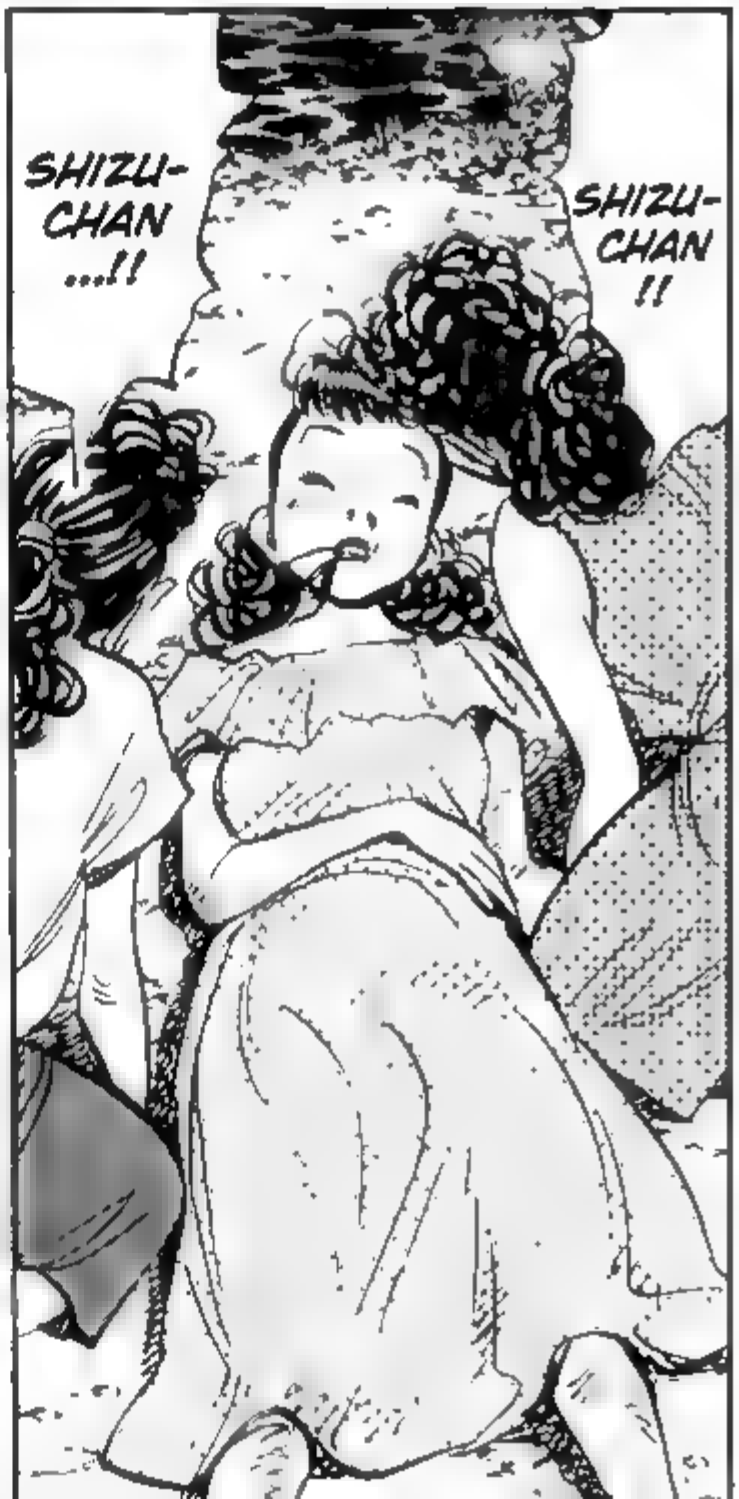
THIS MAN... HAVE YOU EVER SEEN HIM BEFORE?

Haa
Haa
Haa



M...
MOVE IT!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? WHAT ABOUT A DOCTOR!? DID YOU CALL THE POLICE!?


SHIZU-CHAN ...!!
SHIZU-CHAN !!

EH ...?

BUT SHIZU-CHAN SAID NOT TO...

HURRY UP AND DO IT!! IF YOU KEEP STANDING AROUND LIKE THIS, SHE'LL...

SHE SAID THAT SHE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU, NOT POLICEMEN OR DOC-TORS...

CALL A FUCKING DOCTOR, I SAID!!

CALL A DOCTOR RIGHT NOW.

BUT ...

SHIZU-CHAN...

HIEE!!

NO...

WHAT KIND OF MAN WAS HE? WHAT DID HIS FACE LOOK LIKE?

KIN-CHAN ...

IS IT THE SAME CUSTOMER THAT HIT YOU BEFORE?

WHO... WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

KARATE CHOP...?

THAT MANGA ...

EH?

SHE SAID THE KARATE CHOP MAN DID IT...

LIKE THIS!!

ZAFULU-SENSEI'S MANGA...?

IT'S BECAUSE I READ THAT MANGA ...

YOU TOLD ME NOT TO READ IT...

IT'S MY FAULT...

A BETTER MANGA THAN THAT...

I KNOW YOU CAN DRAW...

MMM ...?

HEY, KIN-CHAN ...

A FUNNIER, MORE IN-TERESTING ONE...

I KNOW YOU CAN WRITE A BETTER CONTINUATION, KIN-CHAN...

SHIZU-CHAN ...!!

...THEN, YOUR MANGA WILL BE USED TO MAKE AN AMUSEMENT PARK...

ONE THAT WILL MAKE THE WHOLE WORLD CHEER UP...

Uu... uuuu...

KINJI'S FLOWER MANSION... KINHEAVEN ...

EVERY-ONE WILL HAVE FUN THERE...

SHIZU-CHAN...

THAT NEVER... STARTS ANOTHER WAR...

IT'LL BE A WORLD ...

I DIDN'T HAVE TIME...

YOUR TOOLS...

EH ...?

I'M SORRY, KIN-CHAN...

I STILL HAVEN'T BOU...

SHIZU-CHAN!!

SHIZU-CHAN!!

SHIZU-CHAAAAAN!!

DID YOU HAPPEN TO SEE THIS MAN AT THE SALON IN NIHONBASHI?

HE'S A SUSPECT IN THE SHI-MOYAMA CASE.

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH HIM?

YEAH, I HAVE A FEELING I DID.

IT COULD BE POSSIBLE THAT THIS WAS A CRIME COMMITTED BY LEFTISTS OF THE NATIONAL RAILROAD COMPANY IN ORDER TO PREVENT BETRAYAL.

TRUE ...

ONE OUT OF A MILLION SUSPECTS, HUH?

ZAH

THAT'S THE SIMPLEST THEORY.

IF YOU MAKE IT SEEM LIKE IT WAS ALL THE WORK OF THE LEFTISTS, SUPPRESSION WILL BECOME EASIER... AS WILL TREACHERY.

BUT YOU'VE ALSO GOT TO CONSIDER THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF THE CANON UNIT(*1), THE CIC(*2), OR A PLAN OF THE CTS(*3).

*1 - GHQ's secret service.
*2 - GHQ's Counter-Intelligence Corps.
*3 - GHQ's Civil Transportation Section.

SHIMOYAMA COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED BY A REMNANT FROM THE NOW-DEFUNCT IMPERIAL WAR MACHINE, THINKING THE MAN WAS GOING TO SELL THE JAPAN NATIONAL RAILROAD COMPANY OVER TO THE CTS.

I CAN THINK OF MORE POSSIBILI-TIES...

ARE YOU INFERRING THAT THIS IS ALL A CONSPIRACY BY GHQ(*4) ...?

*4 - General Headquarters (Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers)

IT CLAIMS THAT SHIMOYAMA FOUND OUT THE TRUE PURPOSE BEHIND GHQ'S PROMOTION OF THE NATIONAL RAIL-ROAD COMPANY'S WIDESPREAD DISMISSAL POLICY, AND STARTED TO OPPOSE IT...

I ALSO HEARD A FUNNY RUMOR.

HE WAS CLEANED UP BY YOU FELLAS.

SO HE WAS SILENCED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, WHO HAVE BEEN USING THE GOLD BARS THEY LEVIED FROM THEIR CITIZENS AND OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO FUND THE PREVENTION OF POSSIBLE TREASON.

24...

I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF ALL THE PARTIES I JUST MENTIONED END UP BEING GUILTY.

A SHAM ...?

EITHER WAY, IT SOUNDS LIKE A SHAM.

WELL, A CORPSE WITH ALL THE BLOOD SUCKED OUT OF IT ISN'T EXACTLY A NORMAL FINDING.

A SHAM, HUH...?

A SHAM CREATED BY THE PEOPLE WHO KILLED SHIMOYAMA AND ARE TRYING TO PLUNGE THE HISTORY OF JAPAN INTO DARKNESS...

THERE'S ALSO THE MYSTERIOUS OIL THAT WAS SPREAD ALL OVER HIS CLOTHES...

AND WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND SHIMOYAMA'S TRADEMARK LOYD GLASSES, NECKTIE, ZIPPO LIGHTER, OR CIGARETTE CASE...

THERE'S EVEN ONE THAT SAYS HE WAS DEALT A FATAL BLOW BY A KARATE CHOP.

SEE, SOMEONE'S PULLING THE WOOL OVER YOUR EYES.

ABOUT THE REAL CAUSE OF SHIMOYAMA'S DEATH... THERE'S A WHOLE SLEW OF THEORIES...

TALK ABOUT A BAD JOKE.

IF ONLY YOU HADN'T MET ME ...

IF ONLY YOU HADN'T MET ME, YOU...

DID THE POLICE GET HERE?

IF IT'S THE DOCTOR, HE'S ALREADY TOO LATE.

HEY, GIRLS !!

BUT SOME-THING'S WEIRD!!

I THOUGHT THEY LOOKED LIKE POLICE SO I BROUGHT THEM OVER!!

ドロロ

ヤバイ!

WEIRD ...?

?

HURRY UP AND RUN!!

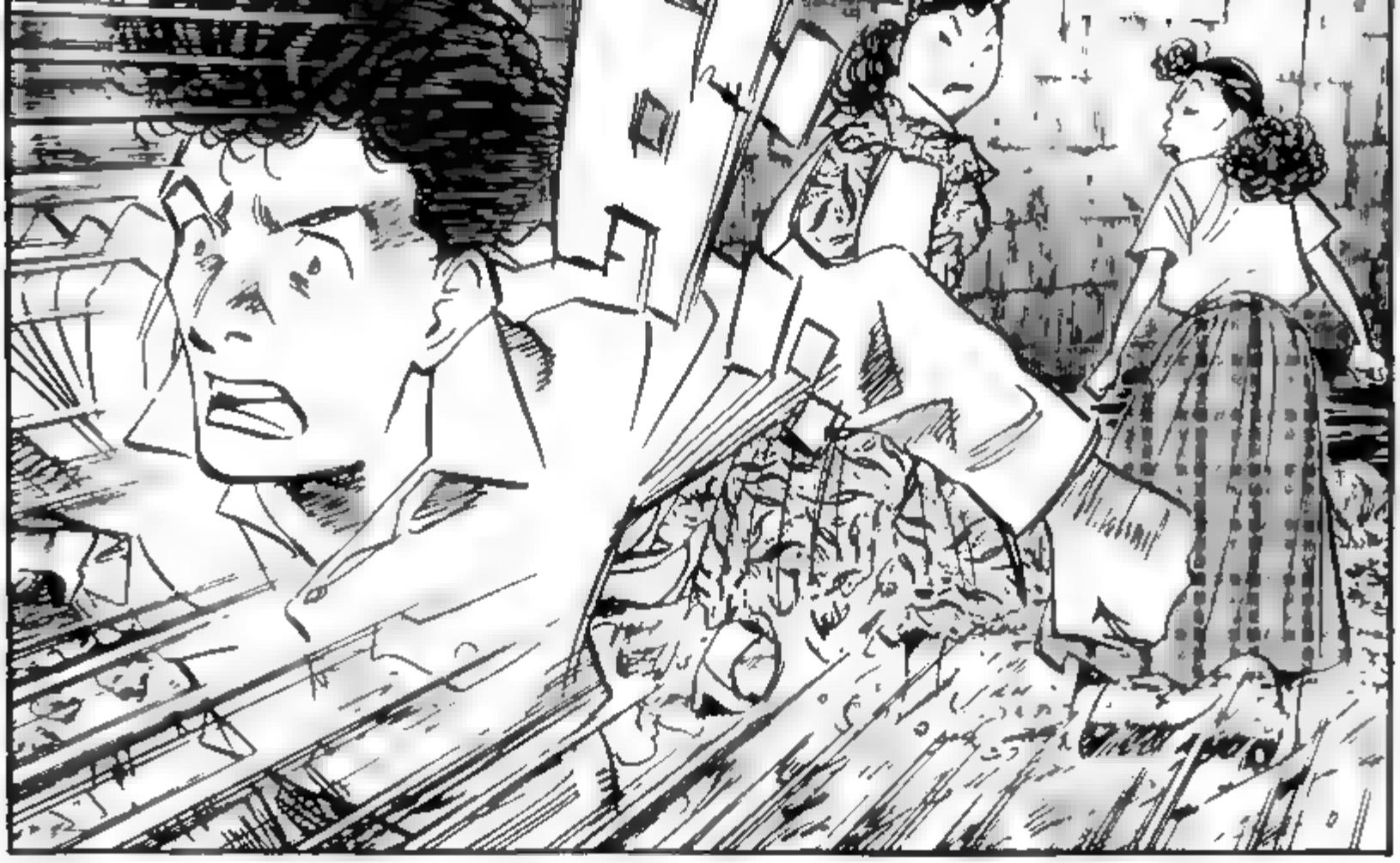
B... BUT...

RUN.

EH?

IF YOU GET CAUGHT HERE, SHIZU-CHAN'S DEATH WILL HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!!

SHIZU-CHAN DIDN'T CALL FOR THE POLICE OR A DOCTOR IN ORDER TO SAVE YOU!!



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IS INSTANT DEMOC-RACY...

THE DE-MOCRACY OF THIS COUNTRY

IT'S DEMOCRACY BORN FROM A MERE TEN PEOPLE.

THAT'S WHY THE BULK OF IT IS STILL...

EN-SHROUDED IN DARK-NESS.

Pi cha

YOOO! YOU REALLY HAVE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT RUNNING LATELY.

SURE YOU'RE ALRIGHT WITH THAT, PAL?

Haa
Haa
Haa
Haa

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK LIKE A CROW THAT JUST GOT SHOT WITH A CAP GUN!

Haa
Haa
Haa

AND WE'VE ALREADY MET BEFORE. SO WHAT'S THE LONG FACE FOR?

IT'S ME. ME!

HUH? IS THIS DIFFICULT JAPANESE TOO MUCH FOR A JAPANESE-AMERICAN LIKE YOU TO UNDERSTAND?

I'M NOT THE "BAT BOY" THAT OLD MAN DREW, YOU KNOW...

Chapter 13 A Forced Destiny

WANT ME TO FLUTTER A LITTLE?

DON'T BELIEVE ME? I EVEN HAVE THE BAT WINGS, YOU KNOW.

THE CATCH-PHRASE BILLY ALWAYS SAYS...

FELLAS DON'T JUST FLY AROUND WHENEVER THEY FEEL LIKE IT, THOUGH.

YOUR GIRLFRIEND... SORRY TO HEAR WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.

I'VE SAID FAREWELL TO WOMEN MANY A TIME, BUT...

THAT'S RIGHT— I'M THE HERO YOU CREATED, BILLY-SAMA!

BUT WITH THAT SAID...

DEATH FARE-WELLS ARE TRULY PAINFUL ...

YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY.

BUT ...

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO...?

HOOO ...

SURE BEATS ME HOW YOU MANAGED TO KEEP UP THAT MANGAKA CAREER SO LONG.

YOU THINK IT'S ALRIGHT FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WHO DREW A HERO LIKE ME,

TO JUST KEEP RUNNING AWAY LIKE THIS?

THE NEXT PART ...?

DRAW THE NEXT PART.

I KNOW YOU CAN WRITE A BETTER CONTINUATION, KIN-CHAN...

SHE TOLD YOU, REMEMBER...?

STOP... WHAT?

AND THEN STOP IT FROM HAPPENING YOURSELF.

YOU WRITE THE CONTINUATION...

RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE PLANNING TO COVER THIS 20TH CENTURY IN THE GREATEST DARKNESS IT'S EVER SEEN.

YOU'RE LEAV-ING?

AH ...

ba sha

J... JUST TELL ME ONE THING!

ARE YOU WHITE OR BLACK ...?

ba sha

THE BILLY BAT YOU CREATED.

I'M ...

.....

TO KEEP RUNNING LIKE THIS ...?

IS IT ALRIGHT ...

NOT ONE BIT...

GHQ LODGING HOUSE

SANNO HOTEL

I WON'T... RUN ANY MORE.

I'M TURNING MYSELF IN TO HQ.

YO...

AND YOU'RE A MANGAKA, RIGHT?

WHA...!? WHO ARE YOU?!

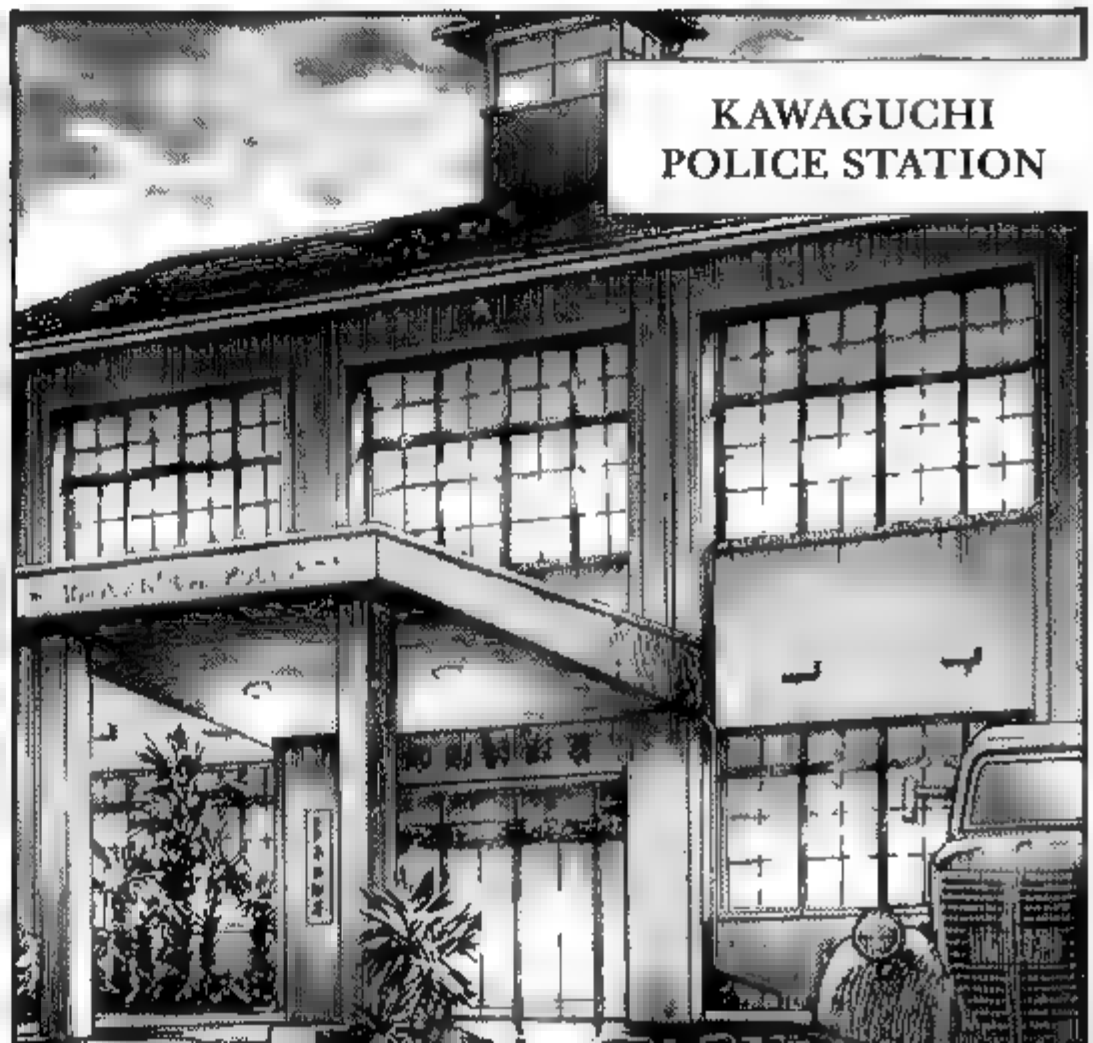
COULD YOU BE KINJI?

WHY DO YOU KNOW MY JAPANESE NAME...?

THE JAPANESE-AMERICAN MANGAKA WORKING FOR THE OCCUPIED FORCES, KINJI-KUN...

I FINALLY FOUND YOU.

Sign: Identification Division



THE CORPSE FOUND NEAR YATSUKA STATION ON THE TOUBU ISEZAKI LINE TWENTY DAYS AGO ...

THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT.

HMPH ...

YATSUKA STATION... THAT'S IN SOUKA CITY, SAITAMA, RIGHT...?

HERE'S HIS POST-MORTEM PHOTO.

AND THE MAN IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH YOU BROUGHT ARE ONE IN THE SAME.

I CAN'T REALLY SAY FOR SURE.

WE GET OUR SHARE OF JUMPERS EVERY YEAR, AFTER ALL.

YEAH... LOOK, THE SHAPE OF THESE GLASSES ARE EXACTLY THE SAME.

WAS IT SUICIDE?

AH, YA KNOW, THERE'S A POSSIBILITY IT WAS A POSTHUMOUS ACCIDENT... LIKE THE BODY WAS DRAGGED THERE AFTER IT HAD ALREADY DIED...

WHY?

WE ALL AGREED THAT THIS REALLY RESEMBLES THE SHIMOYAMA CASE.

OH, BUT... WE WERE TALKING OFF THE RECORD, AND...

IN WHAT WAY?

.....

ALL THE BLOOD WAS GONE.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. YOU SEEM TO HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH PROOF TO WARRANT SUSPICION THAT IT WASN'T A SUICIDE...

WELL, THIS IS JUST SPECULATION, THAT'S ALL, SPECULATION...

THEY ALSO APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN MADE POST-MORTEM.

WE FOUND SOME INCISION-LIKE WOUNDS, TOO...

LIKE I ALREADY TOLD YOU, SUICIDE.

SO THEN THE CAUSE OF DEATH IS?

KARATE CHOP ...?

YA KNOW, HE HAD TAKEN A BLOW TO THE CHEST ...

LIKE HE DIED FROM A FIERCE KARATE CHOP OR SOME-THING.

I MEAN, SHIMOYA-MA-SAN'S CASE WAS DETERMIN-ED TO BE A SUICIDE TOO, RIGHT?

KIDDING, JUST KIDDING!

!!

THIS MAN!!

.....

NO... WE'VE DONE OUR SHARE OF ASKING ALREADY TOO, YA KNOW.

DID YOU HAVE ANY WITNESSES THAT SAID THEY SAW A MAN LIKE THIS!?

TH... THIS GUY IS ...

AS A RESULT, WE FOUND OUT THAT A MAN LIKE THIS WAS SIGHTED NUMEROUS TIMES.

JUST TO MAKE SURE NO ONE SAW ANY SUSPI-CIOUS PEOPLE AROUND THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT.

AM I DONE NOW ...?

IT WAS SUICIDE.

WE'VE COMPLETELY INVESTI-GATED THIS CASE, YOU SEE...

FROM THE YAKITORI STAND ...

WE HAD AN INSPECTOR FROM GHQ COME EARLIER.

WHO ...?

!?

AH... AND ONE MORE THING...

.....

NAMED FINNEY ...

A MAN FROM THE GHQ SPECIAL INVES-TIGA-TIONS UNIT...

YEAH... WELL, I DIDN'T REALLY UN-DERSTAND WHY, BUT ...

I ASSUME THERE WAS SOMETHING IN PARTICULAR HE WANTED TO KNOW?

.....

HE KEPT ASKING ABOUT AN ANCIENT TEXT...

TOKYO ♫ BOOGIE-WOOGIE~ RHYTHM UKI-UKI~ HEART ZUKI-ZUKI~ WAKU-WAKU~ ♫

HMM... I SEE.

CROSS THE OCEAN, AND YOU'LL HEAR THE ECHO OF THE TOKYO ♫ BOOGIE-WOOGIE~

WELL, DON'T WORRY, THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE ME. I JUST WANT TO GET EVERYTHING OUT...

THAT'S A PRETTY MYSTER-IOUS STORY.

YOU'RE THE WHITE ONE!

...AND THIS IS JUST MY INTUITION, BUT...

I'M A POLICE-MAN, REMEM-BER? I HAVE A KNACK FOR TELLING WHICH PARTS OF YOUR STORY ARE FAKE OR NOT.

I'LL HAVE TO BRING YOU IN AS A PRIME SUSPECT.

IF THE DIS-APPEARANCE OF CHARLIE ISHIZUKA IS BROUGHT TO THE ATTEN-TION OF THE POLICE,

HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT!?

I SAID IT'S MY INTUITION, DIDN'T I?

DIDN'T I TELL YOU? ZOFUU-SENSEI GAVE ME A PERSONAL REQUEST.

I STILL HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY ORDERS YET, THOUGH ...

I CAME TO SEE YOU BECAUSE OF A DIFFERENT MATTER ENTIRELY.

WHAT DID SENSEI WANT ME TO DO...?

IF GOD REALLY EXISTS, HE SHOULD TRY GIVING US POLICEMEN A DAY OFF ONCE IN A WHILE.

DON'T BELIEVE IN SUPERSTITIONS OR PROPHECIES EITHER.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN ANY OF THESE NEW RELIGIONS ONE BIT, YOU KNOW.

DOESN'T ANYTHING COME TO MIND...?

EH ...?

SOMETHING BUGS ME, THOUGH... ABOUT WHAT YOUR SENSEI SAID...

NO... WHAT HE SAID ABOUT YOU...

SERIOUSLY THINK ABOUT IT. DOESN'T A BIG TRAIN ACCIDENT,

OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT COME TO MIND?

W... WELL, LOTS OF MANGA COME TO MIND, BUT...

NO, THAT ISN'T WHAT I MEANT ...

WH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

LIKE I SAID...

THIS JUST IN!

AT 9:23 PM TODAY, A TRAIN MAL-FUNCTIONED INSIDE MITAKA STATION.

SIX PASSEN-GERS WERE CAUGHT UN-DERNEATH THE TRACKS AND DIED INSTANTLY...

!!

EH ...?

IT'S JUST LIKE THE PICTURE ...

ADDITIONALLY, A TRAIN FELL OFF THE TRACKS AND CRASHED INTO A NEARBY SHOPPING AREA, INJURING OVER TWENTY PEOPLE ...

MITAKA ...?

SHOULD WE KILL YOU AT MITAKA?

IT'S ALL JUST LIKE THE PICTURE ZOFUU-SENSEI DREW!! OF MITAKA...

!!

HE SAID YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP THIS!

ZOFUU-SENSEI DREW THE SHIMOYAMA INCIDENT IN A MANGA WORD FOR WORD.

SEN-SEI...

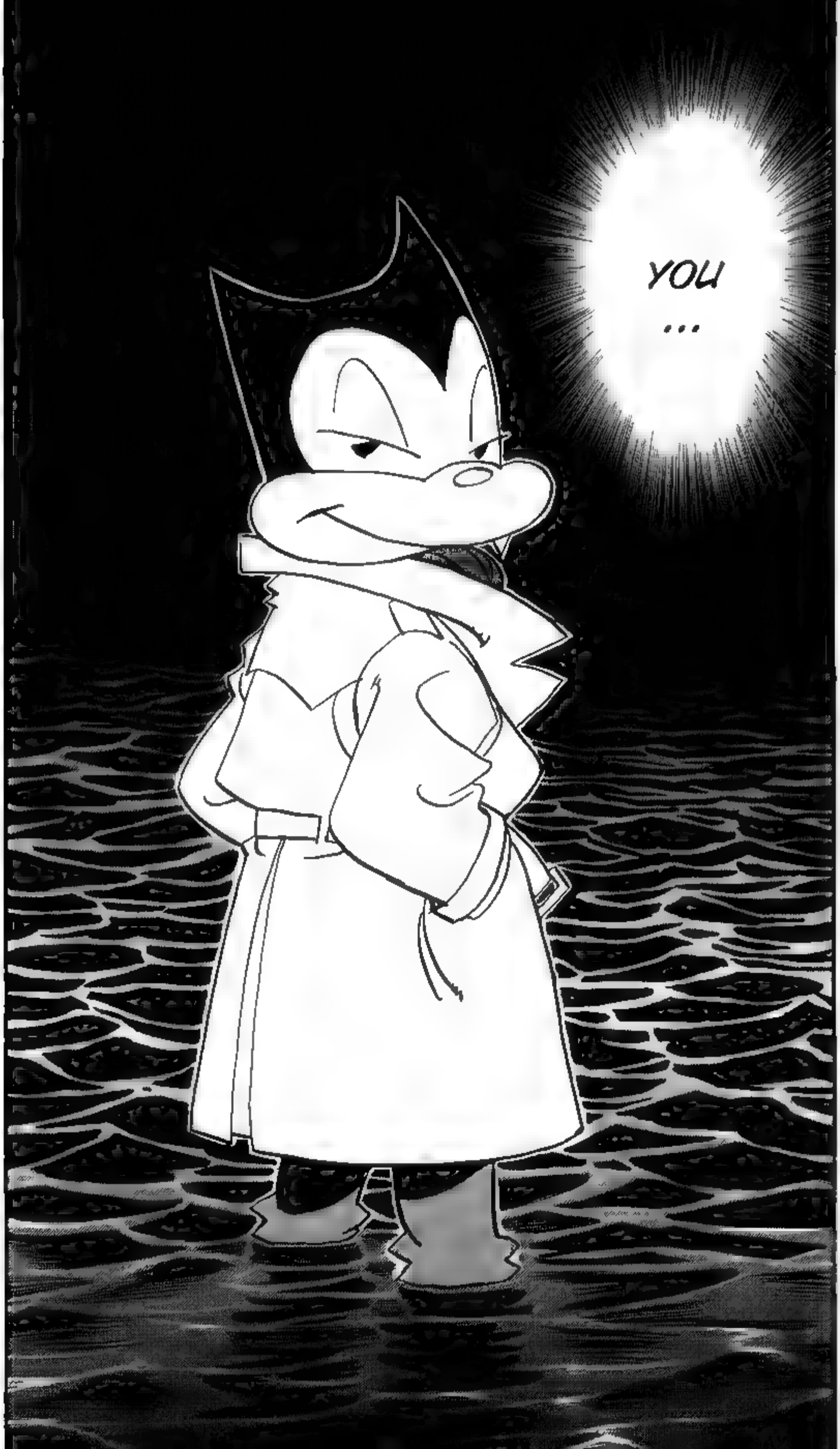
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT WHO IS CAPABLE OF STOPPING THIS!!

AND THAT YOU NEED TO RETURN TO AMERICA ...!!

I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT, KIN-CHAN ...

AND THEN STOP IT FROM HAPPENING YOURSELF.

YOU WRITE THE CONTINU-ATION...


YOU
...

POH
POH
POH
POH
POH
POH
ME...

POH

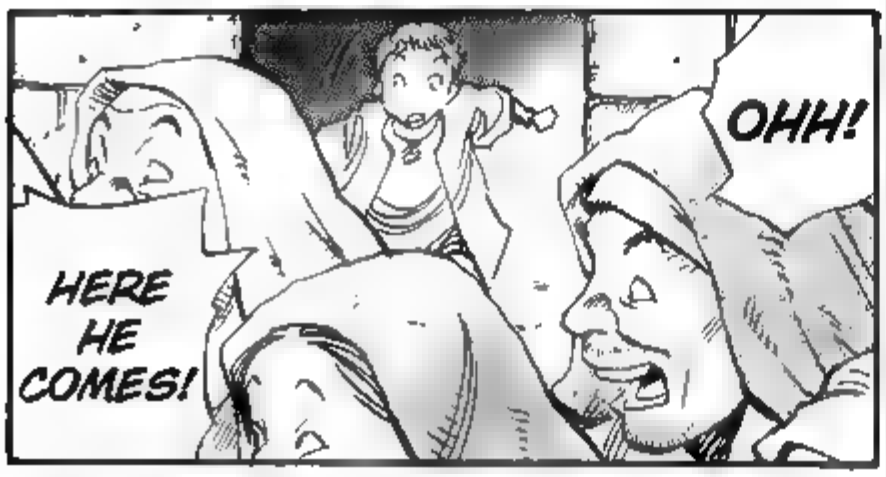
DA
H

WHICH WAY, WHICH WAY!?

YOU CAN SEE BETTER FROM OVER THERE!!

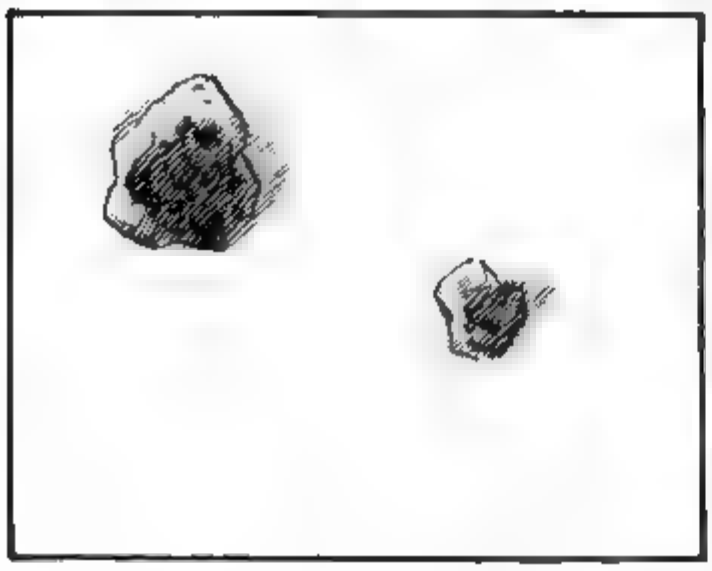
KYAAAA! WOW, LOOK AT HIS FACE!

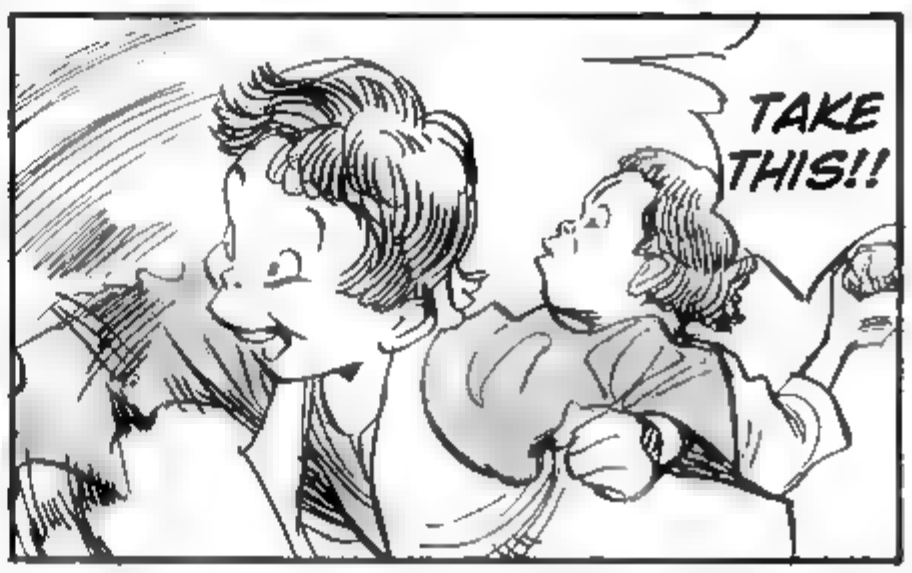
WHAT DO YOU WANT, KID!? STOP TRYING TO PUSH YOUR WAY IN!!


OHH!
HERE HE COMES!

EHEHEH! LET'S DO IT!

Haa
Haa
Haa




TAKE THIS!!

OHHH!!

ZUZU

ZUZ

ZU-

ZA--

HURRY UP AND KEEP WALK-ING!!

WHO SAID YOU COULD TAKE A REST!?

ZA!!

Gu... ohhh ...

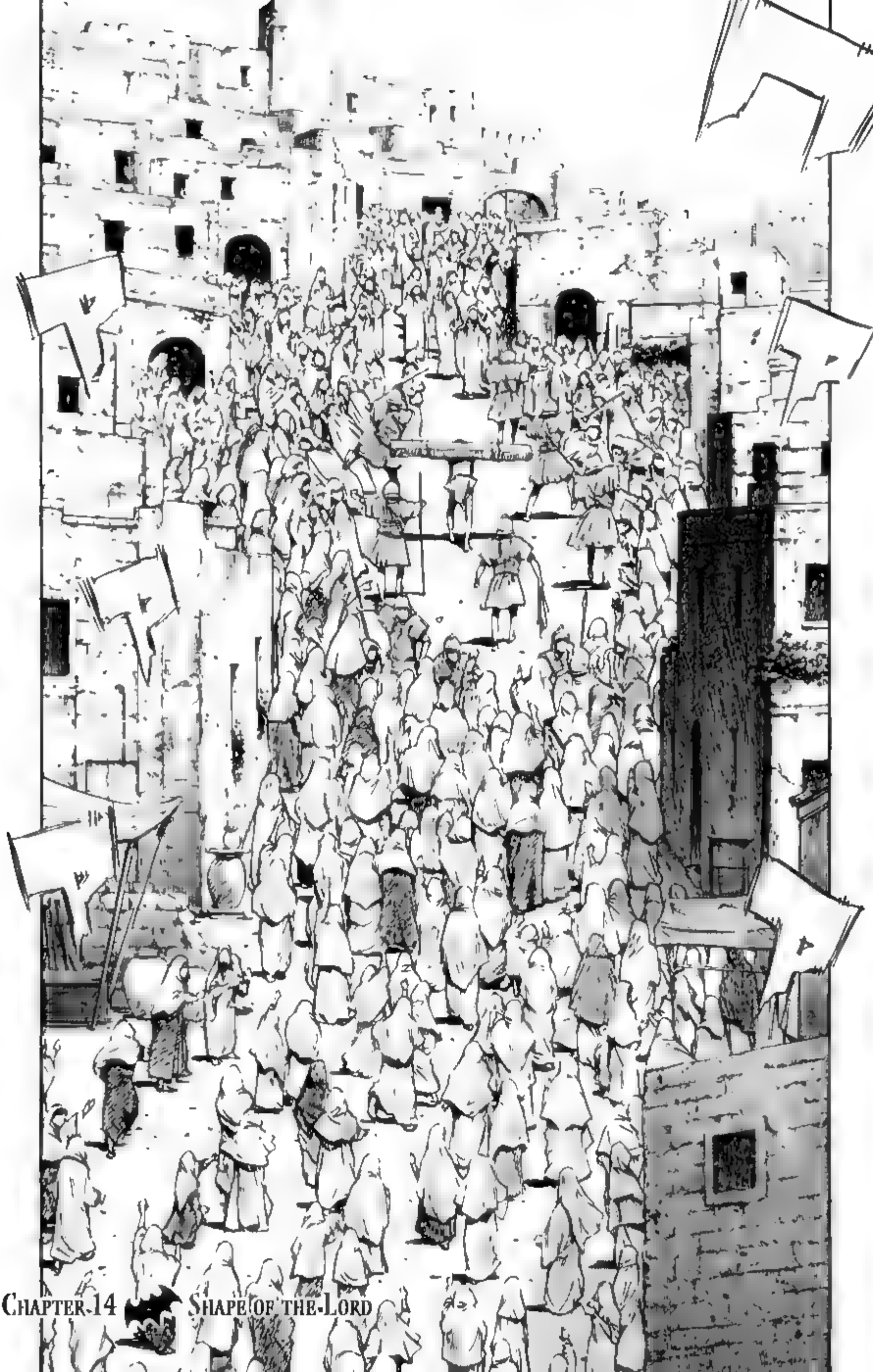
OHHHHH!!

Haa

Haa

OUT OF THE WAY! MOVE IT, MOVE IT!!

OPEN UP THE ROAD!!



.....

THAT'S WHAT HE GETS FOR CALLING HIMSELF THE MESSIAH!

HEH... HEH HEH! YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW!

Haa

Haa

Haa

Haa

Ta dah

HEY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

HEY ...

Ca fa...

DON'T WORRY, IT'S JUST ME.

HE WAS CARRYING A POLE LIKE THIS AND WAS COMPLETELY COVERED IN BLOOD!

I SAW HIM JUST NOW!

DON'T WORRY, NO ONE SAW ME.

I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MUCH BLOOD DRIPPING DOWN LIKE THAT BEFORE!

IT WAS CRAZY! HE KEPT GETTING HIT AGAIN AND AGAIN BY THE STONES EVERYONE WAS THROWING.

UU...

UUUU ...

GO ON, EAT IT. MY MOM MADE IT, IT'S REALLY GOOD.

AH... SORRY, YOU MUST BE HUNGRY, RIGHT?

I BROUGHT YOU SOME BREAD.

I KNOW IT MUST BE PAINFUL TO SEE ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS GO THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

DON'T CRY, MISTER.

Oh... ohhh hh..

Ohhh...

I sold him...

YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, SO THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH, RIGHT? YOU CAN EAT TASTY BREAD, TOO...

Uohh... uohh...

That man out...

I... sold...

EH?

The Messiah...

He was the Anointed One...

Ohhhh hhhh...

HEY, DID YOU HEAR?

YOU SUUURE IT ISN'T JUST ANOTHER CON ARTIST?

THE MES-SIAH, THE SAVIOR !!

SIMON CASHED IN BIG ON THIS ONE!!

BUT THE PROPHECY CAME TRUE!!

WHAT IS?

THERE'S NO MISTAKE THIS TIME!

I HEARD HE'S STILL AT SIMON'S HOUSE RIGHT NOW, SO LET'S HURRY UP AND GO SEE HIM!!

SERI-OUSLY !?

ZAWA

ZAWA

ZAWA

ZAWA

.....

GA H

GA H

MU SHA

MU SHA

HEY, GIRL, COME A LITTLE CLOSER AND LEMME TAKE A GOOD LOOK.

MMM!! STILL EMPTY!!

.....

RELAX, AND WED THIS GIRL! SHE'S STILL A VIRGIN.

I WANT TO ASK YOU SOME-THING!

Y-YES... YOU SEE, THE DISEASE IN MY REAR HASN'T HEALED YET...

NEXT!!

YEAH, YOU BET I DO!

THEN PLEASE ANSWER.

IT'S A SIMPLE QUES-TION, PLEASE JUST ANSWER.

WAIT YOUR TURN!!

WHICH MEANS YOU MUST KNOW THE SHAPE OF THE LORD.

IT SEEMS THAT YOU ARE "THE ANOINTED ONE"...

BUT... I'M ASKING ABOUT WHAT FORM HE APPEARS IN TO YOU.

I KNOW THAT,

THE LORD IS INSIDE YOUR HEART!

WHAT IS THE SHAPE OF THE LORD?

HERE IS THE SHAPE OF THE LORD.

OHHHH!!

gari gori

HMMM... I'M NOT TOO GOOD AT DRAWING PICTURES, BUT...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Ohhh the shape of the Lord! What a pity to have it appear in such a place...

THAT'S VERY NICE TO HEAR.

GU HA HA HA!

WOULD YOU MIND USING YOUR POWER TO TELL ME WHAT KIND OF WEATHER TO EXPECT?

INCIDENT-ALLY, I'M LEAVING ON A TRIP NOW.

YOU'LL BE FINE.

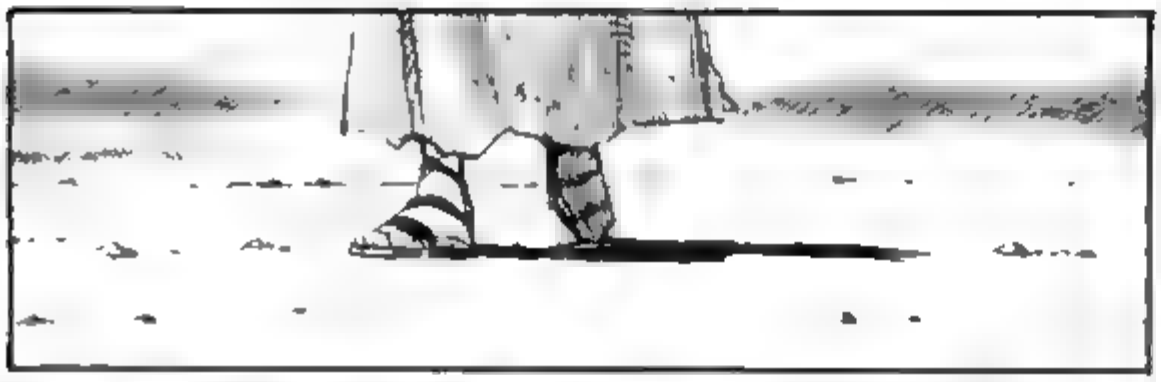
IN A SEASON LIKE THIS, THERE'S NO WAY IT'LL RAIN.

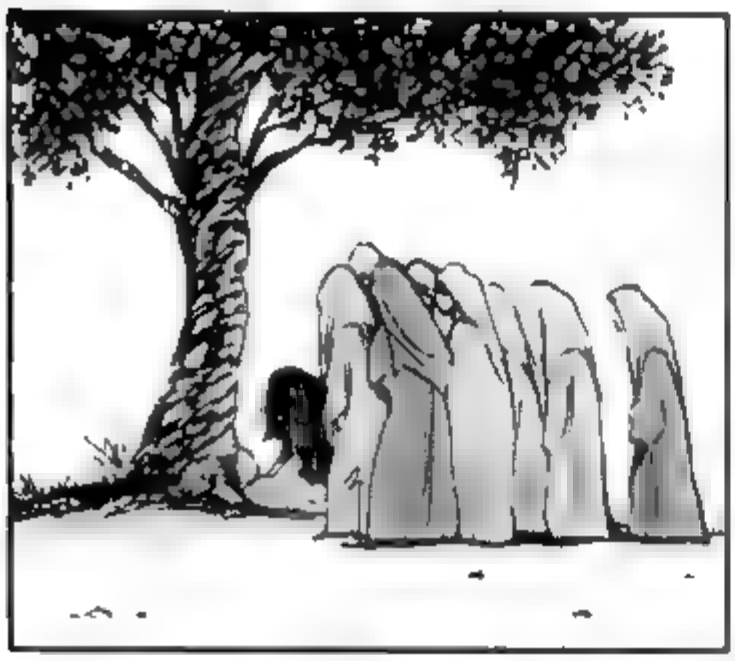
sfx: Zaaaah

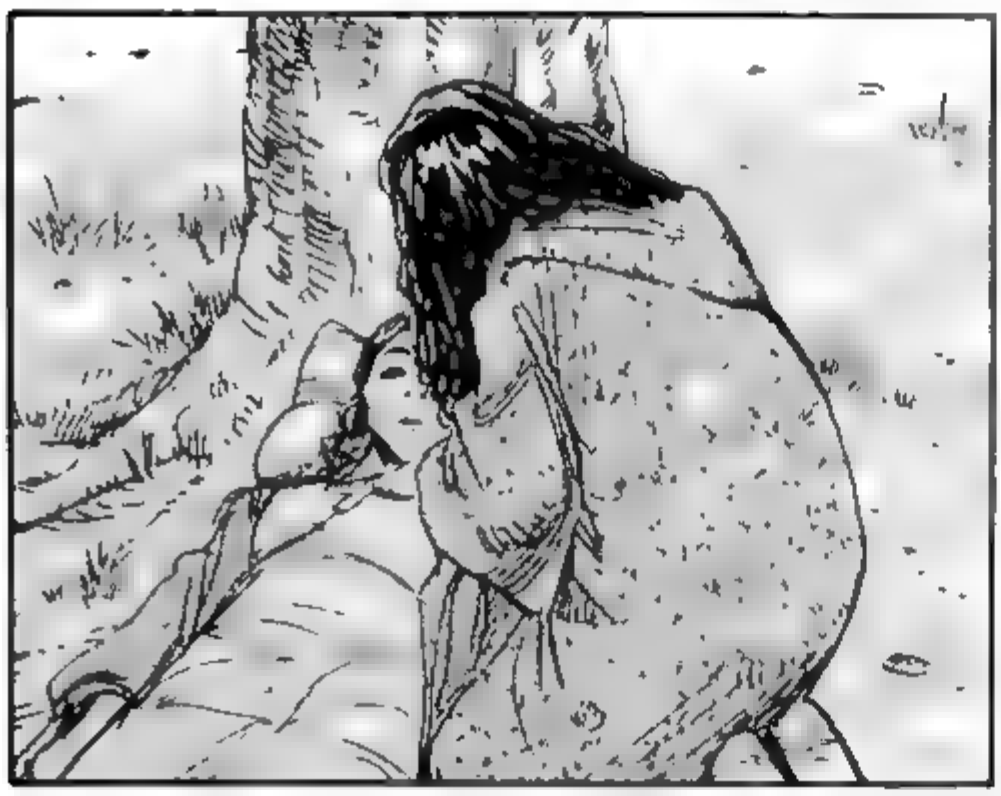
sfx: Zaaaaaah

AHA HA HA HA!

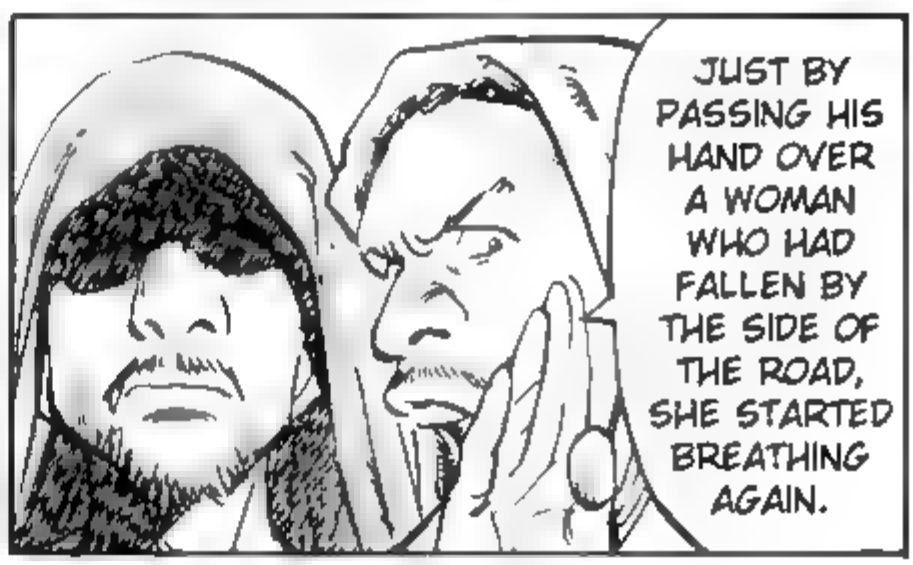
AHA HAHA HAH!







THANK YOU SO MUCH...


JUST BY PASSING HIS HAND OVER A WOMAN WHO HAD FALLEN BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, SHE STARTED BREATHING AGAIN.

HOW CAN I THANK YOU...

PRAY.

INSTEAD OF THANKING ME...

TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF...

AH ...

AH... UM...

.....

DAH

ZAH

ZAH

COULD YOU BE...

THE MESSIAH?

HAVE YOU MET WITH THE LORD?

WHAT IS THE SHAPE OF THE LORD?

ZAH

PLEASE ANSWER ME.

kari kari

THIS IS...

TH...

ZA ZAH

THAT IS WHEN I FIRST MET THE MAN...

YOU ARE...

I...

And then, I...

チャ

I SOLD HIM OUT!!

IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS MONEY...

AHHH!!

THE BREAD ...

EAT IT...

UU...

UU...

UU...

I'LL BRING YOU LEFTOVERS FROM MY DINNER TOMORROW AS WELL.

YOUR DINNER BREAD, HUH...?

YEAH, I'M FINE WITH JUST BEANS.

THAT I SHOULD HELP OUT THOSE IN NEED!

MOM ALWAYS TELLS ME,

DO YOU HELP ME...?

WHY ...

HM...?

HEY, CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

kachi kachi

DON'T CRY ANYMORE ...

UU... UUU...

I CANNOT TELL YOU THAT...

kaki kaki

WHAT KIND OF SHAPE OF THE LORD DID HE DRAW?

THAT MAN ...

YOU AREN'T GONNA TELL ME?

TCH! COME ON!

STAY HERE, ALRIGHT?

OH WELL! I'LL STILL BRING YOU BREAD TOMORROW ANYWAY.

!!

!!

IS THIS ...?

WHAT ...

HE'S DONE FOR.

BOY AM I HUNGRY, MOM!!

I'M HOME!!

WELCOME HOME, JUDAS.